UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/667,701	09/22/2000	Yoshiki Kawaoka	5-009US-FF	9960

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/667,701	KAWAOKA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Aravind K. Moorthy	2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *24 October 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,4-6,10-12,14,16,17 and 19-21* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) *7,9 and 18* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,4-6,10-12,14,16,17 and 19-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *22 September 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the communications filed on 24 October 2007.

2. Claims 1, 4-6, 10-12, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 are pending in the application.

3. Claims 7, 9 and 18 are non-elected.

4. Claims 1, 4-6, 10-12, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 have been rejected.

5. Claims 2, 3, 8, 13 and 15 have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 24 October 2007 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

On pages 11 and 12, the applicant argues that Kurachi does not teach "an encryption unit

for encrypting the image data using an encryption key which corresponds to the client terminal

that has been selected by said selection unit", as recited in claims 1 and similarly in claims 14.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Karuchi discloses that if the print data is encrypted,

the determining device **203m** determines that the encryption is necessary. Accordingly, the

rough image data is encrypted by the print job encryption device **203k.** It is performed by using

the public key sent from each client apparatus for reach client apparatus. The public key would

be the encryption key that corresponds to the client terminal.

On page 12, the applicant argues that Kurachi does not teach "wherein the image data

includes high-resolution image data for printing and display image data having a resolution

lower than that of the high-resolution image data for printing, said encryption unit encrypting the

high-resolution image data for printing", as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 14. The

applicant argues that Kurachi does not teach "a format conversion unit for converting a format of

the applied image data so as to obtain a format conforming to the image printing unit that has

been designated by said designation unit", as recited in claim 10 and similarly in claim 19.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner asserts that Kurachi was not used to

teach the limitation "wherein the image data includes high-resolution image data for printing and

display image data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image data for

printing, said encryption unit encrypting the high-resolution image data for printing". Koyama

was used to teach image data includes high-resolution image data for printing and display image

data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image data for printing. The

combination of Kurachi and Koyama would have been to encrypt the high-resolution image data

for printing. Koyama does indeed teach high resolution for printing [column 11, lines 38-39]

and a lower resolution for index display [column 11, line 40]. Kurachi discloses that the print

data converting device **3d** is a device for converting the print data, which is managed and

outputted by the print job managing device 3c, into picture data, such as bitmap data and the like,

and storing the picture data into a page memory or the like [column 9, lines 38-42].

On page 13, the applicant argues that Kurachi does not teach "a format conversion unit

for converting the data representing the printing history read by said reading unit to data having a

predetermined format", as recited in claim 12 and similarly in claim 20.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Kurachi discloses in FIG. 5, a list of the print jobs

is displayed on the display 15. The list is divided into display blocks 5 corresponding to the

respective print jobs. A display area 6 for the rough image and display areas for a print job

name, a print reception time, a data size, an owner, a total page and the like are disposed on each

display block 5 [column 11, lines 5-12].

On page 14, the applicant argues that Thorne does not teach "a printing unit, which is responsive to a print command applied by said print command unit, for printing, on the same visible recording medium, the image that has been selected by said image selection unit and information relating to a copyright holder of the selected image", as recited in claim 4 and similarly in claims 6, 16 and 17.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Thorne discloses the system ascertains whether print once has been specified. If it has been specified, the system counts the first printing cycle at 532. If one print cycle is detected, printing is disabled at 534. If a print cycle has not occurred and is not detected at 532, then the print icon is replaced with a print once icon, and any applicable menu box is modified to indicate that print once is in effect. If the answer at 530 is affirmative, i.e., printing has been enabled but print once has not been enabled, the system proceeds to 538. If printing has not been enabled the message print function is disabled and the message print icon and menu are deactivated. Printing is inhibited. This is shown at 540. At 542 the system ascertains whether archiving has been enabled. If the response is negative archiving is disabled and the message archive icon and associated menu are deactivated. Archiving is inhibited. This is shown at 544 [column 10, lines 10-25].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 10-12, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Kurachi U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436 B1.

As to claim 10, Kurachi discloses an image data output apparatus for outputting image data

corresponding to a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data,

comprising:

a designation unit for designating an output destination of applied image data

from among the plurality of image printing units [column 12, lines 4-22];

a format conversion unit for converting a format of the applied image data

so as to obtain a format conforming to the image printing unit that has been

designated by the designation unit [column 12, lines 4-22];

a size adjustment unit for adjusting a size of the converted image data to obtain

the image size printed by the image printing unit designed by the designation unit

[column 12, lines 4-22]; and

an image data output unit for outputting the image data, the format

whereof has been converted by the format conversion unit, to the image printing

unit that has been designated by the designation unit [column 12, lines 4-22].

As to claim 11, Kurachi discloses an input unit for inputting an image file containing the image data and data indicating the output destination of this image data [column 12 line 66 to column 13 line 11], the designation unit designating the output destination of image data by data indicating the output destination that is contained in the image file that has been input by the input unit [column 12 line 66 to column 13 line 11].

As to claim 12, Kurachi discloses a printing management apparatus for managing printing conditions in a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, wherein data representing printing history is output from the image printing units and the apparatus comprises:

a reading unit for reading data representing the printing history output from the image printing units [column 11, lines 5-45];

a format conversion unit for converting the data representing the printing history read by the reading unit to data having a predetermined format [column 11, lines 5-45]; and

an aggregating unit for aggregating, for each of the plurality of printing units, the data which represents printing history and the format of which has been converted by the format conversion unit [column 11, lines 5-45].

As to claim 19, Kurachi discloses a method of outputting image data in an image data output apparatus for outputting image data corresponding to a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, comprising:

designating an output destination of applied image data from among the plurality of image printing units [column 12, lines 4-22];

converting a format of the applied image data so as to obtain a format conforming to the image printing unit that has been designated [column 12, lines 4-22];

adjusting a size of the converted image data to obtain the image size printed by the designated image printing unit [column 12, lines 4-22]; and

outputting the image data, the format whereof has been converted, to the image printing unit that has been designated [column 12, lines 4-22].

As to claim 20, Kurachi discloses a printing management method for managing printing conditions in a plurality of image printing units which print images represented by image data, wherein data representing printing history is output from the image printing units and the method comprises:

reading data representing the printing history output from the image printing units [column 11, lines 5-45];

converting the data representing the printing history read to data having a predetermined format [column 11, lines 5-45]; and

aggregating, for each of the plurality of printing units, the data which represents printing history and the converted data [column 11, lines 5-45].

8.   Claims 4-6, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thorne et al U.S. Patent No. 5,958,005.

As to claim 4, Thorne et al discloses an image printing system comprising:

an image selection unit for selecting at least one image from among a plurality thereof [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21];

a print command unit for applying a command to print the image that has been selected by the image selection unit [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21]; and

a printing unit, which is responsive to a print command applied by the print command unit, for printing, on the same visible recording medium, the image that has been selected by the image selection unit and information relating to a copyright holder of the selected image [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21].

As to claim 5, Thorne et al discloses an input unit for inputting data in which image data representing a plurality of images and information relating to copyrights of these images are associated with each other, the image selection unit selecting a desired image from among the plurality of images represented by the image data input by the input unit [column 10, lines 26-44].

As to claim 6, Thorne et al discloses an image printing system comprising:

a scanner for reading an image that has been recorded on a visible recording medium and outputting image data representing the read image [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21];

a determination unit for determining whether an image that has been read by the scanner contains visible information relating to a copyright holder of the image [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21];

an image printing unit for printing an image, which has been read by the scanner, in accordance with a determination by the determination unit that the read image does not contain information relating to the copyright holder [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21]; and

a printing controller for halting normal printing of the image by the image printing unit in accordance with a determination by the determination unit that the read image contains information relating to the copyright holder [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21].

As to claim 16, Thorne et al discloses an image printing method comprising:

selecting at least one image from among a plurality thereof [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21];

receiving a command to print the image that has been selected [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21]; and

printing, in response to a print command applied by the print command unit, on the same visible recording medium, the image that has been selected and information

relating to a copyright holder of the selected image [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21].

As to claim 17, Thorne et al discloses an image printing method comprising:

reading an image that has been recorded on a visible recording medium and acquiring image data representing the read image [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21];

determining whether an image that has been read contains visible information relating to a copyright holder of the image [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21];

printing an image, which has been read, in accordance with a determination that the read image does not contain information relating to the copyright holder [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21]; and

halting normal printing of the image in accordance with a determination that the read image contains information relating to the copyright holder [column 6 line 31 to column 7 line 21].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Kurachi U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436 B1 in view of Koyama et al U.S. Patent No. 6,011,897.

As to claim 1, Kurachi discloses an image server for outputting encrypted image data to

at least one client terminal among a plurality thereof, comprising:

a selection unit for selecting, from among the plurality of client terminals, a

client terminal to which image data is to be output [column 14 line 61 to column 15 line

10];

an encryption unit for encrypting the image data using an encryption key which

corresponds to the client terminal that has been selected by the selection unit [column 14

line 61 to column 15 line 10]; and

a transmitting unit for transmitting an image file storing image data that has

been encrypted by the encryption unit and data representing the client terminal

selected by the selection unit [column 14 line 61 to column 15 line 10].

Kurachi does not teach that the image data includes high-resolution image data for

printing and display image data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image

data for printing, the encryption unit encrypting the high-resolution image data for printing.

Koyama et al teaches image data includes high-resolution image data for printing and display image data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image data for printing [column 11, lines 30-46].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Kurachi so that image data for printing would have been high-resolution. Images for display would have been a lower resolution than for printing. The higher-resolution images would have been encrypted for printing.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Kurachi by the teaching of Koyama et al because by having a lower resolution recorded on a recording medium, it makes it possible to read out at a high speed. The number of access operations with respect to the disc can be reduced [column 2, lines 58-63].

As to claim 14, Kurachi discloses a method of controlling an image server for outputting encrypted image data to at least one client terminal among a plurality thereof, the method comprising:

selecting, from among the plurality of client terminals, a client terminal to which image data is to be output [column 14 line 61 to column 15 line 10];

encrypting the image data using an encryption key which corresponds to the client terminal that has been selected [column 14 line 61 to column 15 line 10]; and

transmitting an image file storing image data that has been encrypted and

data representing the client terminal that has been selected [column 14 line 61 to

column 15 line 10].

Kurachi does not teach that the image data includes high-resolution image data for

printing and display image data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image

data for printing, the encryption unit encrypting the high-resolution image data for printing.

Koyama et al teaches image data includes high-resolution image data for printing and

display image data having a resolution lower than that of the high-resolution image data for

printing [column 11, lines 30-46].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Kurachi so that image data for printing would

have been high-resolution. Images for display would have been a lower resolution than for

printing. The higher-resolution images would have been encrypted for printing.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Kurachi by the teaching of Koyama et al because by

having a lower resolution recorded on a recording medium, it makes it possible to read out at a

high speed. The number of access operations with respect to the disc can be reduced [column 2,

lines 58-63].

As to claim 21, Kurachi teaches that the display image data is not encrypted by the

encryption unit [column 7, lines 16-23].

Conclusion

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aravind K. Moorthy whose telephone number is 571-272-3793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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January 5, 2008

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